

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2022

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
United States Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your commitment to enhancing our nation's environmental economy through climate-smart solutions. We write in support of the New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) application for the United States Department of Agriculture's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.

New Hampshire's way of life and economy are rooted in our natural surroundings. 97 percent of New Hampshire's forests are classified as timberland capable of commercial cultivation, supporting thousands of jobs and contributing to more than \$2 billion of New Hampshire's economic output.

NEFF's proposal would both stimulate New Hampshire's forestry sector and protect our cherished natural environment by enacting climate-smart forestry incentives and by developing a robust system of monitoring, verifying, and reporting key metrics on greenhouse gas benefits. This provides an opportunity to better understand the extent to which climate-smart forestry practices can benefit the environment while building a market for diversely produced and climate-smart forest products, a goal of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities pilot program noted in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

We urge you to give NEFF's proposal full and fair consideration as you evaluate proposed projects designed to achieve the important objectives of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program. We are confident that the NEFF proposal would advance the goals of the pilot program, benefit our state, and constitute a responsible use of federal funds. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of their application.

If you have any further questions, please contact Maeve Dolan at maeve.dolan@mail.house.gov, Sam Cooper-Wall at sam.cooper-wall@mail.house.gov, Jonathan Jarvis at jonathan_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov, or Nicholas Malatesta at nicholas_malatesta@hassan.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator